STATE OF CALIFORNIA FISH AND GAME COMMISSION STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR REGULATORY ACTION (Pre-Adoption Statement of Reasons)

Amend Section 119
Title 14, California Code of Regulations
Re: Trawl Nets Inside the Golden Gate Bridge

I. Date of Initial Statement of Reasons: August 23, 2005

II. Date of Pre-adoption Statement of Reasons: November 4, 2005

III. Dates and Locations of Scheduled Hearings:

(a) Notice Hearing: Date: September 30, 2005

Location: Susanville, CA

(b) Discussion/ Adoption Hearing: Date: December 9, 2005

Location: Concord, CA

IV. Description of Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Purpose:

Subsection 119(c), Title 14, CCR, is proposed to be removed and the following subsections renumbered.

We are proposing to change the form used to collect data on this fishery from DFG 176 (10/89), to FG 2025 (new 11/2005).

V. Reasons for Modification of Originally Proposed Language of Initial Statement of Reasons:

Subsection 119(c) restates Fish and Game Code subsection 7857(k) requirements and is proposed to be removed to reduce unnecessary regulation duplication.

Form DFG 176 (10/89) was designed to capture data for the deep water trawl fisheries and does not provide for the species typically taken in the bay trawl fishery. Form FG 2025 (new 11/2005), Bay Shrimp Log will better capture the data needed by the Department to monitor the bay trawl fishery.

VI. Summary of Primary Considerations Raised in Opposition and in Support:

No oral or written comments have been received from the public either in opposition to or in support of the proposed action.

Updated Informative Digest/Policy Statement Overview

Existing regulations establish the areas, season, and other aspects for commercial trawl nets used inside the Golden Gate Bridge. This fishery targets Bay shrimp (*Crangon* spp.) and several species of bait fish, including yellowfin goby, staghorn sculpin, and plainfin midshipman.

Section 119 was added to Title 14, California Code of Regulations (CCR), in 1979 and limited trawl nets to Districts 2, 12, and 13, as did the Fish and Game Code prior to 1979. In 1985, subsection 119(e), Title 14, CCR, was amended to limit trawls to the portions of these districts lying westerly of a projected straight line beginning at Point Edith on the south and extending through Buoy "6" to the shoreline on the north. However, there is a small portion of District 3 from the Carquinez Bridge to the Point Edith-Buoy 6 boundary line that is currently not open to commercial trawl nets.

The proposed regulation change would add District 3 from upstream of the Carquinez Bridge to the current Point Edith-Buoy 6 boundary line to the trawl permit areas, as requested by commercial Bay shrimp trawlers.

This proposed regulation change would permit trawling along the southern shoreline of Carquinez Strait (Contra Costa County), potentially increasing bay shrimp landings some seasons and years.

Plainfin midshipman is proposed to be included in the list of allowable species for this permit, pursuant to Section 8832, Fish and Game Code.

The reference to the Menlo Park office is proposed to be removed, as the office is now closed and this permit is available at all Department offices that issue commercial permits. Other minor changes are also proposed for regulation clarity.

Subsection 119(c), Title 14, CCR, is proposed to be removed and the following subsections renumbered. This subsection restates Fish and Game Code subsection 7857(k) requirements and is proposed to be removed to reduce unnecessary regulation duplication.

Change the form used to collect data on this fishery from DFG 176 (10/89), to FG 2025 (new 11/2005).

Form DFG (10/89) was designed to capture data for the deep water trawl fisheries and does not provide for the species typically taken in the bay trawl fishery. Form FG 2025 (new 11/2005), Bay Shrimp Log will better capture the data needed by the Department to monitor the bay trawl fishery.